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NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 102

17 April 1951

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1. The following were present:

Mr. Clinton
Lt. Col. Kiel
Lt. Cdr. Nutt
2541 Ash

State
Army
Navy
Air Force
CIA (Chairman)

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2. The Chairman announced the receipt of the proposed FY 1952 production schedule for Chapter IX (Map and Chart Appraisal), copies of which will be made available to the members. He informed the Committee that the schedule for Chapter VII (Scientific) was delayed.

The Army member reported that the schedule for Chapter II (Military Geography) was still under revision and would be ready shortly.

3. The Chairman voiced his concern over the turnover of key civilian personnel assigned to NIS staffs in the several agencies. He said that, while he realized the practical necessity for transfer in certain cases, he felt that every effort should be made to maintain stability of staffs in the interests of more effective NIS production. In the event of such transfers of key civilian personnel, he urged that reliefs be properly indoctrinated in NIS matters before taking over. The members agreed to take all feasible steps to improve this situation.

4. The Chairman indicated that O/RR Economic Divisions were receiving an increasing volume of requests from NIS producing agencies for economic intelligence data. He requested producing agencies to consolidate these requests and, when they were extensive, to formalize the requirements to O/RR.

5. The Committee received the views of its members relative to the revision of certain portions of Section 64 (Manufacturing and Construction) on the USSR. The State member indicated that OIR was prepared to revise its portions within two weeks. The Army member stated that his agency's contributors would be unable to revise their portions in a shorter period than six months because of current requirements. He agreed, however, to investigate the possibility of revising certain summary conclusions, without attempting to revise all the basic data contained in the present drafts. A final decision on this matter will be reached at the next meeting.

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6. In respect to the allocation of production responsibility for Section 23 (Weather and Climate), the Chairman said that for some time the Directorate of Intelligence, US Air Force, had exercised the primary production responsibility with joint assistance operating through the Joint Meteorological Committee, whereas the allocation is assigned to the JMC.

The Air Force member stated that the present arrangement had come about through mutual agreement between the Air Force and the JMC and was required in the interests of production direction. Since the Air Force bears the major responsibility for the production of Section 23, the Committee considered that the allocation of responsibility should so state. The Air Force member indicated he would consult with the Secretary, JMC, relative to this reallocation and report back to the Committee at its next meeting.

7. The Army member raised a question, arising out of correspondence with a military attaché, on the use of geographic coordinates to locate geographic names appearing in the NIS Gazetteers. The M.A. felt that a universal grid system might be preferable to pinpoint minor geographic positions. Discussion revealed that the particular grid system was available on relatively few countries and had limited dissemination. The Committee agreed that geographic coordinates should be continued in the NIS Gazetteers.

8. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in CIA at 1000 hours on 24 April 1951.

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